

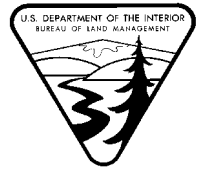


United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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EMS TRANSMISSION: 01/16/01
Instruction Memorandum No. CA-2001- 020
Expiration Date: 09/30/02

To: Bakersfield and Bishop Field Office Managers

From: State Director

Subject: Integration of Bishop BLM - Inyo NF Fire Program

DD: 04-15-01

As per our meeting following the SLT meeting in Folsom, the 2001 fire season is a good time to test the integration of the two fire programs in the eastern Sierra. It is my understanding that the current BLM FMO (Ray Brown) will reach mandatory fire fighter retirement on or about the first of July. It would be appropriate to announce the FMO position as soon as possible in order to get a qualified FMO on board and start the orientation process by **April 15, 2001**, (via shadowing the current FMO). It is expected to have the new FMO functional for the FY2001 fire season and utilize Ray in a Battalion Chief function.

For this year the budget allocation process will remain the same, i.e. Bakersfield will track the existing budget for Central CA. If at the end of the 2001 fire season the results of the integration are positive, we will consider other means of distributing the budget.

Before giving final approval for this integration to be permanent, I would expect the following items to take place **before the 2002 fire season**:

1. Fire Fighter safety is paramount. If safety is jeopardized for efficiencies then the program will not be allowed to go forward. A written justification must show how this integration will not hamper safety.
2. Clear direction and chain of command is in place for everyone concerned. All lines of supervision are to be spelled out so everyone understands who reports to whom.
3. If the F. S. has the lead position, then the BLM needs to have the assistant position and visa versa. At no time should one agency encumber both the lead and assistant position or should the organization take on the appearance of being run by just one agency.

4. Standards need to be developed and be measurable so we can review the process to see if the integration is a success or failure and if we want to continue in this direction.
5. NFMAS must be run to see if an economy of scale is realized. It is hoped that by integrating two programs that each agency will benefit by realizing a savings or a streamlining effect.
6. If only one agency realizes a savings or a reduction in equipment and personnel, an equitable means of absorbing the reduction must be agreeable to both agencies.
7. The Topaz fire station issue needs to be addressed at the Field Office Manager level. The Bishop field office needs to see if any sort of an agreement can be made with the Carson City Field Office. The chance for possible safety problems at the ground level are extremely high as long as the BLM area being protected (with interagency partners) is crossing two regions of the U.S. F. S., two different forests, two different initial attack dispatch centers, and two different Geographic Coordination Centers.

If you have any questions regarding this IM, please call Ed Wehking, Branch Chief for Fire and Aviation at (916) 978-4431.

Signed:
Mike Pool
State Director

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Records Management